The School of Social Welfare at the University at Albany opens doors to meaningful and exciting career opportunities. The Ph.D. in Social Work prepares students for academic, research, and policy/practice positions in social work and social welfare. Students dive deeply into the theoretical and empirical foundations of social work practice and social welfare policy, and develop competencies in a range of research methods. In partnership with faculty mentors, students strive to promote social change, improve human well-being, and enhance evidence-based services. Students leave prepared to conduct cutting edge social work research, educate future generations of practitioners, and/or hold leadership positions in practice and policy.

Students take 36 credits beyond the Master’s degree. In addition to taking core courses in quantitative and qualitative research, statistics, policy, practice, writing, and teaching/pedagogy, students take inter-disciplinary electives. Core courses and electives allow students to tailor much of the work to their own research, policy and practice interests.

“The program provided an atmosphere of learning that allowed me to take on unique challenges in classes and my dissertation. The design of the program allowed me to participate in the development and implementation of research projects in my areas of interest, to engage in teaching and to understand the core values and challenges of social work education. The opportunity to broaden my practice, research and teaching skills from interactions with faculty, administrators and my fellow students was invaluable.”

TRICIA WELDON, PH.D. SOCIAL WORK ‘13

CAREER TRACK OUTCOMES

Students who have completed their Ph.D. in Social Work at UAlbany have had the following careers after graduation:

- RESEARCH SCIENTISTS FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS
- TENURE TRACK PROFESSORS
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
- COMMISSIONERS OF STATE AGENCIES
WHY PH.D. IN SOCIAL WORK @UALBANY?

➤ COST: Earn your Ph.D. from an exceptional program with tuition rates lower than those at most private universities.

➤ FACULTY: Create partnerships with a range of stakeholders and funders from the local community, state agencies, federal funders, and international partners.

➤ LOCATION: Live in New York’s Capital-home to state government, the legislature, policy-makers, and advocacy organizations.

➤ RESEARCH: Experience interdisciplinary research with departments such as Criminal Justice, Psychology, Education, Public Health, and Women’s Gender, and Sexual Studies.

➤ AFFILIATIONS: Have the opportunity to work in research centers including the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute and the National Center for Excellence in Homeless Service. Research affiliations with several centers in the University including the Center for Human Services Research, the Center for Elimination of Minority Health Disparities, the Center for Social and Demographic Analysis, and the Hindelang Criminal Justice Research Center.

“The PhD program at UAlbany School of Social Welfare provides a supportive learning environment to explore the tough questions that challenge social workers today. Our faculty mentor students to be scholar change agents and support them in pursuing their career goals, whether it is in academia, policy-making, program evaluation, or other social work practice settings.”

LORETTA PYLES, PHD, PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR, PHD PROGRAM

JOINT MSW/PHD PROGRAM

The joint M.S.W./Ph.D. program permits exceptionally qualified students with a high level of demonstrated academic competence, leadership potential, and a strong interest in scholarship in social welfare research to reduce the 96 credits required for the M.S.W. and Ph.D. programs in Social Welfare to 86 credits.

To learn more about this opportunity visit https://www.albany.edu/graduate/social-work-msw-phd-degree.php.